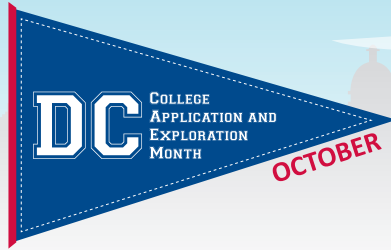


I Applied...Now What?

Ok. So, you've applied to college and that's great, but what happens now?

Applying is one of the first steps on your path to attending college. Keep in mind that it may take a couple of months for the college or university to get back to you. Here's a step- by-step guide for what to do in the meantime:

- 1. Once you've submitted your application, make sure that you've turned in everything required for the college to consider you as a potential student. Have you:**
 - Submitted your application fee (or a fee waiver or deferral form)?
 - Asked your high school counselor to send your transcript to the college?
 - Submitted your essay(s) (if required by the college)?
 - Sent any college transcripts you might have from dual- credit courses?
 - Sent all required test scores (SAT, ACT, AP, or IB)?
- 2. While you wait to hear from colleges you can still search for scholarships. Don't forget to complete and file the FAFSA.**
 - Did you know that you might be eligible for financial aid to help pay for college? Start the process by filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®). The FAFSA will be available this Oct. 1 for students who plan to attend college between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. fafsa.gov
 - If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before Feb. 1, because many local grants and scholarships are funded on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - Then, you'll need to apply for the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) starting Feb. 1. <http://osse.dc.gov/dctag>
 - There are many scholarship opportunities available, but researching them takes time. You should never have to PAY to apply or search for scholarships. Here are a couple good places to start: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search, osse.dc.gov/mayorsscholars, fastweb.com/, scholarships.com/, scholarships.uncf.org/ and hsf.net/
- 3. Communicate with colleges once you hear from them.**
 - If you get accepted to a college, Congratulations! Remember, you have until May 1 to make most college decisions, so take your time weighing all of your options. If you decide you want to accept an offer, don't forget to send in all the forms your college will need: AP exam scores, housing deposits, etc. You will then need to register as a new student and enroll in classes.
 - If you get waitlisted, send in your waitlist confirmation card. Contact the college to let them know they are still on your radar. Sometimes, the chances of getting in are slim, so review the colleges that accepted your application and come up with a second choice that you are happy with. Remember, you have until May 1 to make a final decision.



College Planning Timeline for Seniors

August-October

- ☐ Say out loud: "I am going to college."
- ☐ Create a bigfuture.collegeboard.org account.
- ☐ Research colleges and visit campuses.
- ☐ Meet with your counselor, parent or guardian to discuss college plans.
- ☐ Check application requirements and deadlines.
- ☐ Draft application essays and gather letters of recommendation.
- ☐ If application has a cost, determine how to pay for it or if you qualify for a fee waiver.
- ☐ Complete college admission applications by last week of October.

November-December

- ☐ Check scholarship requirements and deadlines.
- ☐ Develop a preliminary college budget.
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA4caster to calculate your estimated financial aid package at fasfa4caster.ed.gov.
- ☐ Attend a FAFSA Completion event at school or in your community. Complete your FAFSA at fasfa.gov starting Oct. 1.
- ☐ Submit your scholarship applications by required deadline.

January-March

- ☐ Complete your DC OneApp-DCTAG pays the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition, up to \$10,000 annually at four-year public colleges and up to \$2500 at private HBCUs and 2 year colleges. The application opens Feb. 1 and closes June 30th

April-July

- ☐ Review your acceptance letters and financial aid packages and decide where you will go to school by May 1.
- ☐ Sign your promissory note for financial aid.
- ☐ Find out when payment for tuition will be due.
- ☐ Attend orientation and take placement exams.